

(12) INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(19) World Intellectual Property
Organization
International Bureau



(43) International Publication Date
17 February 2005 (17.02.2005)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number
WO 2005/014766 A3

(51) International Patent Classification⁷: C11C 3/14, 3/00,
B01J 29/00, C07C 51/353

(21) International Application Number:
PCT/EP2004/008008

(22) International Filing Date: 16 July 2004 (16.07.2004)

(25) Filing Language: English

(26) Publication Language: English

(30) Priority Data:
60/489,423 24 July 2003 (24.07.2003) US

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(81) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of national protection available): AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BW, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, EG, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NA, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PG, PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SY, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, YU, ZA, ZM, ZW.

(84) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of regional protection available): ARIPO (BW, GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, NA, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HU, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PL, PT, RO, SE, SI, SK, TR), OAPI (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

Published:

- with international search report
- before the expiration of the time limit for amending the claims and to be republished in the event of receipt of amendments

(88) Date of publication of the international search report:
7 April 2005

For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.

(54) Title: METAL ION EXCHANGED SOLID MATERIALS AS CATALYSTS FOR THE ARYLATION AND THE SKELETAL ISOMERIZATION OF FATTY ACIDS AND ALKYL ESTERS THEREOF

(57) Abstract: The present invention generally relates to a process for the arylation of unsaturated linear fatty acids and/or alkyl esters thereof to their aryl branched counterparts. Said arylation process comprises contacting said unsaturated linear fatty acids and/or alkyl esters thereof and one or more aromatic compounds with at least one metal ion exchanged solid material catalyst. The invention also relates to various derivatives prepared from the aryl branched fatty acids and/or alkyl esters prepared in accordance with the present invention.

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